



State of California
The Natural Resources Agency
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PROJECT TITLE	Lake Forest Fire Preparedness Exercises		
PROJECT LOCATION	The project is located approximately two air miles west of the community of Susanville and just north of Lassen County Road A-1	COUNTY	Lassen
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
CONTACT	Scott Rosikewicz		
ADDRESS	697-345 Highway 36 Susanville, CA 96130	PHONE	1-(530)-257-4178

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

A series of yearly CAL FIRE training exercises is being proposed on portions of Sierra Pacific Industries (SPI) property in conjunction with CAL FIRE. In general, the training exercises will involve CAL FIRE personnel to demonstrate the safe and effective use of fire suppression tactics. Practices employed will include hand line construction utilizing chainsaws and assorted hand tools to cut vegetation and displace surface vegetation exposing some bare mineral soil. In addition, crews will also conduct a tool out exercise, which should not involve the cutting of vegetation. Not all of the area will be treated by training activities. Approximately five acres of vegetation may be treated in any one year. The analysis area where this project may take place is approximately 102 acres. No trees are to be removed as part of this project. The treatment of trees will be limited to minor limbing where necessary. No burning of slash material generated during the training exercises will occur. No heavy equipment will be operated off of existing road surfaces and already disturbed road shoulders. Much of the proposed training area has received some form of land management in the past such as timber harvesting and other forest management activities, road construction and livestock grazing.

EXEMPTION STATUS

- ☒ Categorical Exemption Type/Section: Class §15304 (Minor Alterations to the Land)
☐ Statutory Exemption (state code section):
☐ Ministerial (§21080(b)(1); 15268)
☐ Declared Emergency (§21080(b)(3); 15269(a))
☐ Emergency Project (§21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c))

REASONS PROJECT IS EXEMPT

This project fits under the Class 4; §15304 (Minor Alterations to Land) Categorical Exemption to CEQA. A Minor Alteration to Land is described as a "minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry or agricultural purposes." This project as proposed constructs handlines and does not remove healthy, mature, or scenic trees. Field review by CAL FIRE staff confirmed that no exceptions apply which would preclude the use of a Notice of Exemption for this project. The Department has concluded that no significant environmental impact would occur to aesthetics, agriculture and forestland/timberland, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use planning, mineral resources, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation/traffic, or to utilities and service systems. Documentation of the environmental review completed by the CAL FIRE is kept on file at CAL FIRE's Lassen-Modoc-Plumas Unit Headquarters located in Susanville, California.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

RECEIVED

AUG 20 2014

STATE CLEARING HOUSE

 8/20/14
Duane Shintaku, Deputy Director Date
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection